

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-14, and 21-30 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 3-4, 8, 11, 13-14, 25, and 27-30 have been amended. No claims have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims and the remarks is respectfully requested.

Examiner Telephone Interview

On January 23, 2009, the Applicant's representatives, John Gatz and Bradley Taub, spoke with Examiner Turk to discuss the outstanding Office Action. Examiner Turk and the Applicant's representatives discussed the Section 112 rejections. The Applicant's representatives proposed several amendments and are submitting those amendments in this Response.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the claimed invention. The Office Action states that the open end of the wall structure within at least one of the input and output light guides must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. The Applicant has removed the objectionable language from the claims. Thus, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 21-30 are rejected as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically the Office Action objects to the element “. . . wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide has a wall structure to assist in guiding light along said optical communication path, said wall structure including an open end and an enclosed end, said enclosed end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path . . .” as regarded as new matter in the claims. Page 4. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. To expedite prosecution, the Applicant has amended the claims to further clarify the invention.

Specifically, independent claim 1 was amended to recite “wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide **is formed by a wall structure** to assist in guiding light along said optical communication path, said wall structure including **a first end and a**

second end, said second end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path.” The wall structure describes, in one non-limiting example, the physical structure of the format 10, 32, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 8. Similar amendments were made to independent claims 8 and 25.

The Office Action further objects to claim 1 for reciting the element “said light transmission path.” The Applicant amended this language to coincide with previously amended claim language.

Claims 8-14, 21-27, 29 and 30 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that the “optical communication path” is unclearly recited. The Applicant amended claim 8 to recite “wherein said input light guide, said input reflector, said light transmission segment, said output light guide, and said output reflector form an optical communication path.” Amended claim 8 clearly recites and defines the optical communication path. The Applicant also amended claim 25 to recite “said optical communication path being formed by at least one of said input light guide, said input reflector, said light transmission segment, said output light guide, and said output reflector.” Amended claim 25 clearly recites and defines the optical communication path.

For at least the reasons stated above, the Applicant requests that the Section 112 rejections be withdrawn and that all of the claims (claims 1-6, 8-14, and 21-30) be allowed.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance and action toward that end is earnestly solicited. It is believed that no additional fees are due; however, should any fees be required (except for payment of the issue fee), the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from the Nixon Peabody Deposit Account No. 50-4181 (247082-000036USPT).

Respectfully submitted,

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